

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 20, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 27, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 13, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2010

## SENATE BILL

**No. 890**

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### **Introduced by Senators Alquist and Steinberg**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members De La Torre, Feuer, and Jones)

January 21, 2010

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An act to amend Sections 1363 and 1389.25 of, to add Section 1367.001 to, and to add Article 4.1 (commencing with Section 1366.10) to Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of, the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Sections 10113.9, 10603, and 10604 of, to add Sections 10112.56, 10112.57, and 10604.2 to, and to add Chapter 9.6 (commencing with Section 10960) to Part 2 of Division 2 of, the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 890, as amended, Alquist. Health care coverage.

Existing law, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, on and after January 1, 2014, requires a health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage in the individual or ~~small~~ group market to accept every employer and individual in the state that applies for that coverage, as specified, and requires ~~those~~ issuers *in the individual and small group markets* to ensure that the coverage includes a specified

essential benefits package. Among other things, the act allows premiums for that *individual or small group* coverage to vary only by rating area, age, tobacco use, and whether the coverage is for an individual or family, as specified.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance.

Existing law imposes various requirements with respect to individual contracts and policies issued by health care service plans and health insurers. Existing law requires a health care service plan to permit, at least once each year, an individual who has been covered for at least 18 months under an individual plan contract issued by the health care service plan to transfer, without medical underwriting, as defined, to another individual plan contract offered by the health care service plan having equal or lesser benefits, as specified. Existing law imposes a parallel requirement with respect to individual policies issued by health insurers.

This bill would, commencing July 1, 2011, require plans and insurers issuing individual coverage to make certain standard benefit plan designs available to individuals, would require that these designs be offered in ~~five~~ 6 different coverage choice categories, as specified, and would require a plan or insurer to market one standard benefit plan design in each category. The bill would require plans to, on and after July 1, 2011, discontinue offering and selling benefit plan designs other than the standard benefit plan designs, but would require plans and insurers to renew benefit plan designs issued prior to that date ~~until January 1, 2014~~. The bill would, commencing July 1, 2011, allow a subscriber or policyholder of an individual contract or policy, on the annual renewal date of that contract or policy, to transfer on a guarantee issue basis to another benefit plan design issued by his or her plan or insurer or a benefit plan design issued by another plan or insurer, provided that the new plan design is in the same or a lower coverage choice category or has an equal or lower actuarial value, as specified. The bill would require plans and insurers to provide notice of these transfer rights in their evidence of coverage and in notices regarding changes to premiums or coverage.

The bill would, commencing July 1, 2011, create the Individual Insurance Market Reform Commission, which would consist of 9 voting

members, appointed by the Legislature and the Governor, as specified, and 3 specified nonvoting members. The bill would require the commission to review and suggest changes to the standard benefit plan designs described above and would require the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance to jointly adopt regulations based on those suggestions. The bill would require the commission to develop a standardized enrollment questionnaire to be used by all plans and insurers when offering and selling individual coverage, but would prohibit plans and insurers from requesting or obtaining health information from applicants eligible for guaranteed issuance of coverage on and after January 1, 2014. The bill would also require the commission to establish a methodology for the graduation of risk into ~~three~~ 3 specified categories and would require plans and insurers in the individual market to set rates consistent with this methodology. The bill would place limits on the annualized premium rate increase for a contract and the variation between the highest standard premium rate and the lowest standard premium rate and would enact other related provisions.

Existing law requires health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to provide coverage for certain benefits. Under existing law, health care service plan contracts are required, subject to certain exemptions, to provide basic health care services, as defined, among other benefits.

This bill would require health insurance policies issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2011, to provide coverage for medically necessary basic health care services, as defined.

Existing law prohibits a health care service plan from expending for administrative costs, as defined, an excessive amount of the payments the plan receives for providing health care services to its subscribers and enrollees. The Insurance Commissioner is required to withdraw approval of an individual or mass-marketed policy of disability insurance if the commissioner finds that the benefits provided under the policy are unreasonable in relation to the premium charged, as specified.

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act prohibits a health insurance issuer issuing health insurance coverage from establishing lifetime limits or unreasonable annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for any participant or beneficiary, as specified. The act also requires a health insurance issuer issuing health insurance coverage to provide an annual rebate to each enrollee if the ratio of the amount of the revenue expended by the issuer on costs to the total

amount of premium revenue is less than a certain percentage, as specified.

This bill would require health care service plans and health insurers to comply with the applicable requirements imposed under ~~that act~~ *those provisions*.

Existing law requires health care service plans and health insurers to use disclosure forms containing certain information in order to provide a full and fair disclosure of the provisions of a contract or policy, as specified.

This bill would require that this disclosure be made available on the plan's or insurer's Internet Web site. With respect to individual plan contracts or policies, the bill would require the form to include provisions relating to an individual's right to apply for any benefit plan design issued by the plan or insurer at the time of application for a new contract or policy and at the time of renewal of a contract or policy and information concerning the availability of a listing of all the contracts or policies and benefit designs offered to individuals by the plan or insurer, as specified. The bill would make these provisions apply as of July 1, 2011.

Existing law requires each health care service plan offering a contract to an individual or small group to provide a uniform health plan benefits and coverage matrix containing the plan's major provisions, as specified.

This bill would, commencing July 1, 2011, also impose that requirement on health insurers offering policies to individual or small groups and would, with respect to both plans and insurers, require that the matrix be made available on the plan's or insurer's Internet Web site.

Because a willful violation of the bill's requirements with respect to health care service plans would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1363 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1363. (a) The director shall require the use by each plan of disclosure forms or materials containing information regarding the benefits, services, and terms of the plan contract as the director may require, so as to afford the public, subscribers, and enrollees with a full and fair disclosure of the provisions of the plan in readily understood language and in a clearly organized manner. The director may require that the materials be presented in a reasonably uniform manner so as to facilitate comparisons between plan contracts of the same or other types of plans. Nothing contained in this chapter shall preclude the director from permitting the disclosure form to be included with the evidence of coverage or plan contract, except that the disclosure form shall also be made available on the plan's Internet Web site.

The disclosure form shall provide for at least the following information, in concise and specific terms, relative to the plan, together with additional information as may be required by the director, in connection with the plan or plan contract:

(1) The principal benefits and coverage of the plan, including coverage for acute care and subacute care.

(2) The exceptions, reductions, and limitations that apply to the plan.

(3) The full premium cost of the plan.

(4) Any copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirements that may be incurred by the member or the member's family in obtaining coverage under the plan.

(5) The terms under which the plan may be renewed by the plan member, including any reservation by the plan of any right to change premiums.

(6) A statement that the disclosure form is a summary only, and that the plan contract itself should be consulted to determine governing contractual provisions. The first page of the disclosure form shall contain a notice that conforms with all of the following conditions:

(A) (i) States that the evidence of coverage discloses the terms and conditions of coverage.

(ii) States, with respect to individual plan contracts, small group plan contracts, and any other group plan contracts for which health care services are not negotiated, that the applicant has a right to view the evidence of coverage prior to enrollment, and, if the evidence of coverage is not combined with the disclosure form, the notice shall specify where the evidence of coverage can be obtained prior to enrollment.

(B) Includes a statement that the disclosure and the evidence of coverage should be read completely and carefully and that individuals with special health care needs should read carefully those sections that apply to them.

(C) Includes the plan's telephone number or numbers that may be used by an applicant to receive additional information about the benefits of the plan or a statement where the telephone number or numbers are located in the disclosure form.

(D) For individual contracts, and small group plan contracts as defined in Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 1357), the disclosure form shall state where the health plan benefits and coverage matrix is located, including the location of that information on the plan's Internet Web site.

(E) Is printed in type no smaller than that used for the remainder of the disclosure form and is displayed prominently on the page.

(7) A statement as to when benefits shall cease in the event of nonpayment of the prepaid or periodic charge and the effect of nonpayment upon an enrollee who is hospitalized or undergoing treatment for an ongoing condition.

(8) To the extent that the plan permits a free choice of provider to its subscribers and enrollees, the statement shall disclose the nature and extent of choice permitted and the financial liability that is, or may be, incurred by the subscriber, enrollee, or a third party by reason of the exercise of that choice.

(9) A summary of the provisions required by subdivision (g) of Section 1373, if applicable.

(10) If the plan utilizes arbitration to settle disputes, a statement of that fact.

(11) A summary of, and a notice of the availability of, the process the plan uses to authorize, modify, or deny health care services under the benefits provided by the plan, pursuant to Sections 1363.5 and 1367.01.

1 (12) A description of any limitations on the patient's choice of  
2 primary care physician, specialty care physician, or nonphysician  
3 health care practitioner, based on service area and limitations on  
4 the patient's choice of acute care hospital care, subacute or  
5 transitional inpatient care, or skilled nursing facility.

6 (13) General authorization requirements for referral by a primary  
7 care physician to a specialty care physician or a nonphysician  
8 health care practitioner.

9 (14) Conditions and procedures for disenrollment.

10 (15) A description as to how an enrollee may request continuity  
11 of care as required by Section 1373.96 and request a second opinion  
12 pursuant to Section 1383.15.

13 (16) Information concerning the right of an enrollee to request  
14 an independent review in accordance with Article 5.55  
15 (commencing with Section 1374.30).

16 (17) A notice as required by Section 1364.5.

17 (18) For individual contracts, both of the following:

18 (A) Provisions relating to an individual's right to apply for any  
19 benefit plan design written, issued, or administered by the plan at  
20 the time of application for a new health care service plan contract,  
21 or at the time of renewal of a health care service plan contract.

22 (B) Information concerning the availability of a listing of all  
23 the plan's contracts and benefit plan designs offered to individuals,  
24 including the rates for each contract.

25 (b) (1) The director shall require each plan offering a contract  
26 to an individual or small group to provide with the disclosure form  
27 for individual and small group plan contracts a uniform health plan  
28 benefits and coverage matrix containing the plan's major provisions  
29 in order to facilitate comparisons between plan contracts. The  
30 uniform matrix shall be made available on the plan's Internet Web  
31 site and shall include the following category descriptions together  
32 with the corresponding copayments and limitations in the following  
33 sequence:

34 (A) Deductibles.

35 (B) Lifetime maximums.

36 (C) Professional services.

37 (D) Outpatient services.

38 (E) Hospitalization services.

39 (F) Emergency health coverage.

40 (G) Ambulance services.

- 1 (H) Prescription drug coverage.
- 2 (I) Durable medical equipment.
- 3 (J) Mental health services.
- 4 (K) Chemical dependency services.
- 5 (L) Home health services.
- 6 (M) Other.

7 (2) The following statement shall be placed at the top of the  
8 matrix in all capital letters in at least 10-point boldface type:

9 THIS MATRIX IS INTENDED TO BE USED TO HELP YOU  
10 COMPARE COVERAGE BENEFITS AND IS A SUMMARY  
11 ONLY. THE EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE AND PLAN  
12 CONTRACT SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR A DETAILED  
13 DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGE BENEFITS AND  
14 LIMITATIONS.

15 (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent a plan from using  
16 appropriate footnotes or disclaimers to reasonably and fairly  
17 describe coverage arrangements in order to clarify any part of the  
18 matrix that may be unclear.

19 (d) All plans, solicitors, and representatives of a plan shall, when  
20 presenting any plan contract for examination or sale to an  
21 individual prospective plan member, provide the individual with  
22 a properly completed disclosure form, as prescribed by the director  
23 pursuant to this section for each plan so examined or sold.

24 (e) In the case of group contracts, the completed disclosure form  
25 and evidence of coverage shall be presented to the contractholder  
26 upon delivery of the completed health care service plan agreement.

27 (f) Group contractholders shall disseminate copies of the  
28 completed disclosure form to all persons eligible to be a subscriber  
29 under the group contract at the time those persons are offered the  
30 plan. If the individual group members are offered a choice of plans,  
31 separate disclosure forms shall be supplied for each plan available.  
32 Each group contractholder shall also disseminate or cause to be  
33 disseminated copies of the evidence of coverage to all applicants,  
34 upon request, prior to enrollment and to all subscribers enrolled  
35 under the group contract.

36 (g) In the case of conflicts between the group contract and the  
37 evidence of coverage, the provisions of the evidence of coverage  
38 shall be binding upon the plan notwithstanding any provisions in  
39 the group contract that may be less favorable to subscribers or  
40 enrollees.



(h) In addition to the other disclosures required by this section, every health care service plan and any agent or employee of the plan shall, when presenting a plan for examination or sale to any individual purchaser or the representative of a group consisting of 25 or fewer individuals, disclose in writing the ratio of premium costs to health services paid for plan contracts with individuals and with groups of the same or similar size for the plan's preceding fiscal year. A plan may report that information by geographic area, provided the plan identifies the geographic area and reports information applicable to that geographic area.

(i) Subdivision (b) shall not apply to any coverage provided by a plan for the Medi-Cal program or the Medicare Program pursuant to Title XVIII and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

(j) The amendments to this section made by the act adding this subdivision shall become operative on July 1, 2011.

SEC. 2. Article 4.1 (commencing with Section 1366.10) is added to Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 4.1. California Individual Market Simplification

1366.10. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to require health care service plans and health insurers issuing coverage in the individual market to compete on the basis of price, quality, and service, and not on risk selection.

(b) The purpose of this article is to provide for individual coverage with standardized benefit plan designs and to facilitate comparison shopping and price competition.

1366.11. For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Benefit plan design" means a specific individual health care coverage product issued by a health care service plan.

(b) "Commission" means the Individual Insurance Market Reform Commission established pursuant to Section 1366.14.

(c) "Coverage choice category" refers to the levels of coverage identified in subdivision (c) of Section 1366.13.

1366.13. (a) A health care service plan offering individual plan contracts shall fairly and affirmatively market all of the standard benefit plan designs provided for in this section and any additional standard benefit plan designs authorized through

1 regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1366.14  
2 to all individual purchasers in each service area in which the plan  
3 provides or arranges for the provision of health care services.

4 (b) Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 1366.15,  
5 no benefit plan designs other than the standard benefit plan designs  
6 described in this article shall be offered for sale to individuals in  
7 this state.

8 (c) Standard benefit plan designs shall be offered in platinum,  
9 gold, silver, bronze, and catastrophic coverage choice categories  
10 and shall meet the requirements described in the following table,  
11 except as modified by regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision  
12 (c) of Section 1366.14:

1     PRINTER PLEASE NOTE: TIP-IN MATERIAL TO BE  
2     INSERTED

1     *PRINTER PLEASE NOTE: TIP-IN MATERIAL TO BE*  
2     *INSERTED*

1 (d) For families enrolled in the same plan contract, the  
2 deductible and out-of-pocket maximum thresholds shall be twice  
3 the individual thresholds. In calculating these thresholds for the  
4 catastrophic benefit plan design, a plan shall follow the  
5 requirements for health savings accounts under Section 223 of the  
6 Internal Revenue Code.

7 (e) A health care service plan shall market one standard benefit  
8 plan design in each coverage choice category. A health care service  
9 plan may, but shall not be required, to offer a preferred provider  
10 type of benefit plan design.

11 (f) A plan design in the catastrophic coverage choice category  
12 shall have cost-sharing and an out-of-pocket maximum that enables  
13 it to be offered with a health savings account that has preferred  
14 federal income tax status under Section 223 of the Internal Revenue  
15 Code.

16 (g) For the plan designs offered in the catastrophic coverage  
17 choice category, all services, except preventive health services  
18 identified in Section 2713 of the federal Public Health Service Act  
19 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-13), shall be subject to the deductible. For  
20 all other standard benefit plan designs, all services, except office  
21 visits and preventive health services identified in Section 2713 of  
22 the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-13),  
23 shall be subject to the deductible.

24 (h) Compliance with the requirements of this article and Chapter  
25 9.6 (commencing with Section 10960) of Part 2 of Division 2 of  
26 the Insurance Code, and any regulations adopted pursuant to  
27 subdivision (c) of Section 1366.14, shall be enforced consistently  
28 between health care service plans and health insurers regardless  
29 of licensure.

30 (i) Nothing in this section shall require guarantee issue of  
31 coverage.

32 1366.14. (a) The Individual Insurance Market Reform  
33 Commission is hereby established to do both of the following:

34 (1) Develop, as required by Section 1366.16 of this code and  
35 Section 10960.4 of the Insurance Code, a standardized enrollment  
36 questionnaire to be used by all health care service plans and health  
37 insurers that offer and sell individual coverage.

38 (2) Review and, if necessary, suggest changes to the standard  
39 benefit plan designs required to be offered by health care service  
40 plans in the individual market under this article, and the standard

1 benefit plan designs required to be offered by health insurers in  
2 the individual market under Chapter 9.6 (commencing with Section  
3 10960) of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code.

4 (b) (1) The commission shall consist of nine members, each of  
5 whom shall have demonstrated knowledge and experience in health  
6 care and issues relevant to the commission's responsibilities. The  
7 appointments shall be made as follows:

8 (A) The Governor shall appoint five members as follows:

9 (i) One actuary with experience in health care coverage pricing  
10 in the individual market.

11 (ii) One representative of a health insurer, which insurer has a  
12 certificate of authority from the Department of Insurance, provides  
13 preferred provider organization coverage, and has a significant  
14 number of insureds in the individual market.

15 (iii) One representative of a health care service plan, which plan  
16 is licensed by the department, provides health maintenance  
17 organization coverage, and has a significant number of enrollees  
18 in the individual market.

19 (iv) One representative of consumers who has a demonstrated  
20 record of advocating health care issues on behalf of consumers  
21 before a state regulatory agency.

22 (v) One health care economist with knowledge of the individual  
23 market.

24 (B) The Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint two members  
25 as follows:

26 (i) One representative of health care providers who is licensed  
27 under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business  
28 and Professions Code or under an initiative act referred to in that  
29 division.

30 (ii) One representative of consumers who has a demonstrated  
31 record advocating health care issues on behalf of consumers before  
32 a state regulatory agency.

33 (C) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint two members  
34 as follows:

35 (i) One representative of consumers who has a demonstrated  
36 record of advocating health care issues on behalf of consumers  
37 before a state regulatory agency.

38 (ii) One representative of self-employed individuals who  
39 purchase individual health insurance.

1 (2) In addition, the Secretary of California Health and Human  
2 Services or his or her designee, the director or his or her designee,  
3 and the Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee shall serve  
4 as nonvoting members of the commission.

5 (c) (1) The commission shall conduct the review required by  
6 paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) within six months following the  
7 effective date of federal regulations adopted pursuant to Section  
8 1302 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
9 (Public Law 111-148), and at least every two years thereafter.

10 (2) If the commission suggests changes to the standard benefit  
11 plan designs established under Section 1366.13 of this code and  
12 Section 10960.4 of the Insurance Code or suggests standard benefit  
13 plan designs that are in addition to those established under those  
14 sections, the director and the Insurance Commissioner shall jointly  
15 adopt regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act  
16 (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of  
17 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), that shall contain  
18 standardized benefits and cost sharing and shall be substantially  
19 based on the standard benefit plan designs suggested by the  
20 commission.

21 1366.15. (a) (1) On and after July 1, 2011, health care service  
22 plans participating in the individual market shall discontinue  
23 offering and selling health benefit plan designs other than those  
24 that meet the requirements of the standard benefit plan designs  
25 described in this article. ~~However,~~

26 (2) *Notwithstanding paragraph (1), health care service plans*  
27 *shall renew health benefit plan designs issued to individuals and*  
28 *their dependents prior to July 1, 2011, until January 1, 2014.*  
29 *dependents prior to July 1, 2011. A plan that renews this*  
30 *grandfathered health benefit plan design on or after January 1,*  
31 *2014, shall provide the following notice to enrollees of the contract*  
32 *at least 30 days prior to the contract renewal date:*

33 *Your current coverage is a grandfathered product. Effective*  
34 *January 1, 2014, you may be able to obtain health care coverage*  
35 *that provides better benefits with lower premiums and lower cost*  
36 *sharing from this plan, another plan, a health insurer, or the Health*  
37 *Benefits Exchange established in California. Please go to*  
38 *www.health.gov or www.healthhotline.gov for more information.*

39 (b) (1) Notwithstanding Section 1389.5, an individual enrolled  
40 in a benefit plan design may, on a guarantee issue basis, change

1 to a different benefit plan design issued by the same plan or to a  
2 benefit plan design issued by a health insurer or a different health  
3 care service plan only as set forth in this subdivision. For  
4 individuals enrolled as a family, only the subscriber may change  
5 plan designs or switch to a health insurer or a different health care  
6 service plan for himself or herself and for his or her enrolled  
7 spouse, registered domestic partner, and dependents.

8 (2) On the annual renewal date of an individual plan contract,  
9 an individual shall have the right to select, on a guarantee issue  
10 basis, a different benefit plan design issued by the same plan, or  
11 a benefit plan design issued by a health insurer or a different health  
12 care service plan, provided that the new plan design is within the  
13 same or a lower coverage choice category. A subscriber enrolled  
14 in a benefit plan design issued prior to July 1, 2011, may switch  
15 to a standard benefit plan design pursuant to this paragraph that is  
16 of equal or lesser actuarial value.

17 (3) Notice of the right to change benefit plan designs and to  
18 switch to a health insurer or a different health care service plan  
19 established by paragraph (2) shall be included in the plan's  
20 evidence of coverage and in the notice required pursuant to  
21 paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 1389.25.

22 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a subscriber or enrollee  
23 from changing benefit plan designs, health care service plans, or  
24 health insurers at any time if the individual passes medical  
25 underwriting, or as required by federal law.

26 1366.16. (a) (1) The commission shall develop a standardized  
27 enrollment questionnaire to be used by all health care service plans  
28 and health insurers that offer and sell individual coverage. The  
29 questionnaire shall be written in clear and easy to understand  
30 language. The questionnaire, which shall be completed by a  
31 prospective subscriber applying for individual coverage from a  
32 plan or insurer, shall provide for an objective evaluation of the  
33 potential subscriber's health status, and that of his or her  
34 dependents applying for coverage, by assigning a discrete measure,  
35 such as a system of point scoring, to each potential subscriber.

36 (2) No later than six months following the date the commission  
37 develops the standardized enrollment questionnaire, all health care  
38 service plans shall do both of the following:



1 (A) Exclusively use that questionnaire and not use other  
2 questionnaires or forms in order to conduct underwriting, except  
3 as provided in paragraph (3).

4 (B) Utilize the objective evaluation developed by the  
5 commission under paragraph (1) in determining whether to provide  
6 coverage.

7 (3) On and after January 1, 2014, a health care service plan shall  
8 not require, request, or obtain health information as part of the  
9 application process for an applicant who is eligible for guaranteed  
10 issuance of coverage. The application form shall include a clear  
11 and conspicuous statement that the applicant is not required to  
12 provide health information.

13 (b) The commission shall establish a methodology for the  
14 graduation of accepted risk into three risk categories based on  
15 responses to the questionnaire: “higher risk,” “standard risk,” and  
16 “preferred risk.”

17 (c) On and after January 1, 2011, rates between the highest risk  
18 category and the lowest risk category shall not vary by more than  
19 a ratio of 2 to 1 within each standard benefit plan design offered  
20 by a health care service plan within each coverage choice category.

21 1366.17. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a health  
22 care service plan shall rate its entire portfolio of health benefit plan  
23 designs in the individual market utilizing the methodology  
24 established under subdivision (b) of Section 1366.16.

25 (b) The annualized premium rate increase for a health care  
26 service plan contract issued by a health care service plan to an  
27 individual shall not vary by more than 10 percent above or below  
28 the weighted average premium rate increase when calculated across  
29 all of the health care service plan’s health benefit plan designs.  
30 This limitation shall exclude any change in the annual premium  
31 rate due to a change in the individual’s age. In addition, the highest  
32 standard premium rate for a standard benefit plan design offered  
33 in the individual market by a health care service plan (at any age,  
34 geographic area, family size, contract type, network, and effective  
35 date) shall not exceed the lowest standard premium rate for a  
36 standard benefit plan design offered in the individual market by  
37 the health care service plan (at the same age, geographic area,  
38 family size, contract type, network, and effective date) by more  
39 than 50 percent, after taking into consideration the actuarial  
40 difference of the standard benefit plan designs offered.

(c) In rating individuals, only the following characteristics of an individual shall be used: age, geographic region, and family composition, plus the health benefit plan design selected by the individual, except that health status may also be used until January 1, 2014. In using age as a rating factor, benefit plan designs in the individual market shall use single-use year age categories for individuals above 18 years of age and under 65 years of age. In using geographic region as a rating factor, a health care service plan shall use the same geographic rating requirements required under paragraph (3) of subdivision (k) of Section 1357. Health care service plans shall base rates for individuals using no more than the following family size categories:

- (1) Single.
- (2) More than one child 18 years of age or under and no adults.
- (3) Married couple or registered domestic partners.
- (4) One adult and child.
- (5) One adult and children.
- (6) Married couple and child or children, or registered domestic partners and child or children.

1366.18. This article shall not apply to individual health care service plan contracts for coverage of Medicare services pursuant to contracts with the United States government, Medi-Cal contracts with the State Department of Health Care Services, Healthy Families Program contracts with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, contracts with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board under the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program, Medicare supplement contracts, long-term care contracts, or specialized health care service plan contracts.

1366.19. This article shall become operative on July 1, 2011.

SEC. 3. Section 1367.001 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1367.001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every health care service plan that issues, sells, renews, or offers contracts for health care coverage in this state shall meet the applicable requirements of Section 2711 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-11) and Section 2718 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-18).

~~SEC. 4. Section 1389.25 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:~~

1     ~~1389.25. (a) (1) This section shall apply only to a full-service~~  
2 ~~health care service plan offering health coverage in the individual~~  
3 ~~market in California and shall not apply to a specialized health~~  
4 ~~care service plan, a health care service plan contract in the~~  
5 ~~Medi-Cal program (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000)~~  
6 ~~of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code), a~~  
7 ~~health care service plan conversion contract offered pursuant to~~  
8 ~~Section 1373.6, a health care service plan contract in the Healthy~~  
9 ~~Families Program (Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of~~  
10 ~~Division 2 of the Insurance Code), or a health care service plan~~  
11 ~~contract offered to a federally eligible defined individual under~~  
12 ~~Article 4.6 (commencing with Section 1366.35).~~

13     ~~(2) A local initiative, as defined in subdivision (v) of Section~~  
14 ~~53810 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, that is~~  
15 ~~awarded a contract by the State Department of Health Care Services~~  
16 ~~pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 53800 of Title 22 of the~~  
17 ~~California Code of Regulations, shall not be subject to this section~~  
18 ~~unless the plan offers coverage in the individual market to persons~~  
19 ~~not covered by Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.~~

20     ~~(b) (1) A health care service plan that declines to offer coverage~~  
21 ~~or denies enrollment for an individual or his or her dependents~~  
22 ~~applying for individual coverage or that offers individual coverage~~  
23 ~~at a rate that is higher than the standard rate, shall provide the~~  
24 ~~individual applicant with the specific reason or reasons for the~~  
25 ~~decision in writing at the time of the denial or offer of coverage.~~

26     ~~(2) No change in the premium rate or coverage for an individual~~  
27 ~~plan contract shall become effective unless the plan has delivered~~  
28 ~~a written notice of the change at least 30 days prior to the effective~~  
29 ~~date of the contract renewal or the date on which the rate or~~  
30 ~~coverage changes. A notice of an increase in the premium rate~~  
31 ~~shall include the reasons for the rate increase.~~

32     ~~(3) The written notice required pursuant to paragraph (2) shall~~  
33 ~~be delivered to the individual contractholder at his or her last~~  
34 ~~address known to the plan, at least 30 days prior to the effective~~  
35 ~~date of the change. The notice shall state in italics either the actual~~  
36 ~~dollar amount of the premium rate increase or the specific~~  
37 ~~percentage by which the current premium will be increased. The~~  
38 ~~notice shall describe in plain, understandable English any changes~~  
39 ~~in the plan design or any changes in benefits, including a reduction~~  
40 ~~in benefits or changes to waivers, exclusions, or conditions, and~~

1 highlight this information by printing it in italics. The notice shall  
2 specify in a minimum of 10-point bold typeface, the reason for a  
3 premium rate change or a change to the plan design or benefits.

4 ~~(4) The written notice required pursuant to paragraph (2) shall~~  
5 ~~also describe the individual contractholder's right to change benefit~~  
6 ~~plan designs and to switch to a health insurer or a different health~~  
7 ~~care service plan, as set forth in Section 1366.15. This paragraph~~  
8 ~~shall become operative on July 1, 2011.~~

9 ~~(5) If a plan rejects an applicant or the dependents of an~~  
10 ~~applicant for coverage or offers individual coverage at a rate that~~  
11 ~~is higher than the standard rate, the plan shall inform the applicant~~  
12 ~~about the state's high-risk health insurance pool, the California~~  
13 ~~Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (Part 6.5 (commencing~~  
14 ~~with Section 12700) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code). The~~  
15 ~~information provided to the applicant by the plan shall specifically~~  
16 ~~include the program's toll-free telephone number and its Internet~~  
17 ~~Web site address. The requirement to notify applicants of the~~  
18 ~~availability of the California Major Risk Medical Insurance~~  
19 ~~Program shall not apply when a health plan rejects an applicant~~  
20 ~~for Medicare supplement coverage.~~

21 ~~(e) A notice provided pursuant to this section is a private and~~  
22 ~~confidential communication and at the time of application, the~~  
23 ~~plan shall give the individual applicant the opportunity to designate~~  
24 ~~the address for receipt of the written notice in order to protect the~~  
25 ~~confidentiality of any personal or privileged information.~~

26 *SEC. 4. Section 1389.25 of the Health and Safety Code is*  
27 *amended to read:*

28 1389.25. (a) (1) This section shall apply only to a full service  
29 health care service plan offering health coverage in the individual  
30 market in California and shall not apply to a specialized health  
31 care service plan, a health care service plan contract in the  
32 Medi-Cal program (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000)  
33 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code), a  
34 health care service plan conversion contract offered pursuant to  
35 Section 1373.6, a health care service plan contract in the Healthy  
36 Families Program (Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of  
37 Division 2 of the Insurance Code), or a health care service plan  
38 contract offered to a federally eligible defined individual under  
39 Article 4.6 (commencing with Section 1366.35).

(2) A local initiative, as defined in subdivision (v) of Section 53810 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, that is awarded a contract by the State Department of Health Care Services pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 53800 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, shall not be subject to this section unless the plan offers coverage in the individual market to persons not covered by Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.

(b) (1) A health care service plan that declines to offer coverage or denies enrollment for an individual or his or her dependents applying for individual coverage or that offers individual coverage at a rate that is higher than the standard rate, shall provide the individual applicant with the specific reason or reasons for the decision in writing at the time of the denial or offer of coverage.

(2) No change in the premium rate or coverage for an individual plan contract shall become effective unless the plan has delivered a written notice of the change at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the contract renewal or the date on which the rate or coverage changes. A notice of an increase in the premium rate shall include the reasons for the rate increase.

(3) The written notice required pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be delivered to the individual contractholder at his or her last address known to the plan, at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the change. The notice shall state in italics either the actual dollar amount of the premium rate increase or the specific percentage by which the current premium will be increased. The notice shall describe in plain, understandable English any changes in the plan design or any changes in benefits, including a reduction in benefits or changes to waivers, exclusions, or conditions, and highlight this information by printing it in italics. The notice shall specify in a minimum of 10-point bold typeface, the reason for a premium rate change or a change to the plan design or benefits.

*(4) The written notice required pursuant to paragraph (2) shall also describe the individual contractholder's right to change benefit plan designs and to switch to a health insurer or a different health care service plan, as set forth in Section 1366.15. This paragraph shall become operative on July 1, 2011.*

~~(4)~~

(5) If a plan rejects an applicant or the dependents of an applicant for coverage or offers individual coverage at a rate that is higher than the standard rate, the plan shall inform the applicant

1 about the state's high-risk health insurance pool, the California  
2 Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP) (Part 6.5  
3 (commencing with Section 12700) of Division 2 of the Insurance  
4 Code), and the federal temporary high risk pool established  
5 pursuant to Part 6.6 (commencing with Section 12739.5) of  
6 Division 2 of the Insurance Code. The information provided to the  
7 applicant by the plan shall be in accordance with standards  
8 developed by the department, in consultation with the Managed  
9 Risk Medical Insurance Board, and shall specifically include the  
10 toll-free telephone number and Internet Web site address for  
11 MRMIP and the federal temporary high risk pool. The requirement  
12 to notify applicants of the availability of MRMIP and the federal  
13 temporary high risk pool shall not apply when a health plan rejects  
14 an applicant for Medicare supplement coverage.

15 (c) A notice provided pursuant to this section is a private and  
16 confidential communication and, at the time of application, the  
17 plan shall give the individual applicant the opportunity to designate  
18 the address for receipt of the written notice in order to protect the  
19 confidentiality of any personal or privileged information.

20 SEC. 5. Section 10112.56 is added to the Insurance Code, to  
21 read:

22 10112.56. (a) For purposes of this section, "basic health care  
23 services" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 1345 of the  
24 Health and Safety Code and in Section 1300.67 of Title 28 of the  
25 California Code of Regulations.

26 (b) A health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on  
27 or after July 1, 2011, shall provide coverage for medically  
28 necessary basic health care services.

29 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health insurer from  
30 charging policyholders or insureds a copayment or a deductible  
31 for a basic health care service or from setting forth, by contract,  
32 limitations on maximum coverage of basic health care services,  
33 provided that the copayments, deductibles, or limitations are  
34 reported to, and held unobjectionable by, the commissioner and  
35 set forth to the policyholder or insured pursuant to the disclosure  
36 provisions of Section 10604.

37 (d) This section shall not apply to specialized health insurance  
38 policies, Medicare supplement policies, CHAMPUS-supplement  
39 insurance policies, TRICARE supplement insurance policies,  
40 accident-only insurance policies, or insurance policies excluded

1 from the definition of “health insurance” under subdivision (b) of  
2 Section 106.

3 SEC. 6. Section 10112.57 is added to the Insurance Code, to  
4 read:

5 10112.57. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every  
6 health insurer that issues, sells, renews, or offers policies for health  
7 care coverage in this state shall meet the applicable requirements  
8 of Section 2711 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 Sec. 300gg-11) and Section 2718 of the federal Public Health  
10 Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-18).

11 SEC. 7. ~~Section 10113.9 of the Insurance Code is amended to~~  
12 ~~read:~~

13 ~~10113.9. (a) This section shall not apply to short-term limited~~  
14 ~~duration health insurance, vision-only, dental-only, or~~  
15 ~~CHAMPUS-supplement insurance, or to hospital indemnity,~~  
16 ~~hospital-only, accident-only, or specified disease insurance that~~  
17 ~~does not pay benefits on a fixed benefit, cash payment only basis.~~

18 ~~(b) No change in the premium rate or coverage for an individual~~  
19 ~~health insurance policy shall become effective unless the insurer~~  
20 ~~has delivered a written notice of the change at least 30 days prior~~  
21 ~~to the effective date of the contract renewal or the date on which~~  
22 ~~the rate or coverage changes. A notice of an increase in the~~  
23 ~~premium rate shall include the reasons for the rate increase.~~

24 ~~(c) (1) The written notice required pursuant to subdivision (b)~~  
25 ~~shall be delivered to the individual policyholder at his or her last~~  
26 ~~address known to the insurer, at least 30 days prior to the effective~~  
27 ~~date of the change. The notice shall state in italics either the actual~~  
28 ~~dollar amount of the premium increase or the specific percentage~~  
29 ~~by which the current premium will be increased. The notice shall~~  
30 ~~describe in plain, understandable English any changes in the policy~~  
31 ~~or any changes in benefits, including a reduction in benefits or~~  
32 ~~changes to waivers, exclusions, or conditions, and highlight this~~  
33 ~~information by printing it in italics. The notice shall specify in a~~  
34 ~~minimum of 10-point bold typeface, the reason for a premium rate~~  
35 ~~change or a change in coverage or benefits.~~

36 ~~(2) The written notice required pursuant to subdivision (b) shall~~  
37 ~~also describe the individual policyholder’s right to change benefit~~  
38 ~~plan designs and to switch to a health care service plan or a~~  
39 ~~different health insurer, as set forth in Section 10960.3. This~~  
40 ~~paragraph shall become operative on July 1, 2011.~~

~~(d) If an insurer rejects an applicant or the dependents of an applicant for coverage or offers individual coverage at a rate that is higher than the standard rate, the insurer shall inform the applicant about the state's high-risk health insurance pool, the California Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (Part 6.5 (commencing with Section 12700)). The information provided to the applicant by the insurer shall specifically include the program's toll-free telephone number and its Internet Web site address. The requirement to notify applicants of the availability of the California Major Risk Medical Insurance Program shall not apply when a health plan rejects an applicant for Medicare supplement coverage.~~

*SEC. 7. Section 10113.9 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:*

10113.9. (a) This section shall not apply to short-term limited duration health insurance, vision-only, dental-only, or CHAMPUS-supplement insurance, or to hospital indemnity, hospital-only, accident-only, or specified disease insurance that does not pay benefits on a fixed benefit, cash payment only basis.

(b) No change in the premium rate or coverage for an individual health insurance policy shall become effective unless the insurer has delivered a written notice of the change at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the policy renewal or the date on which the rate or coverage changes. A notice of an increase in the premium rate shall include the reasons for the rate increase.

(c) (1) The written notice required pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be delivered to the individual policyholder at his or her last address known to the insurer, at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the change. The notice shall state in italics either the actual dollar amount of the premium increase or the specific percentage by which the current premium will be increased. The notice shall describe in plain, understandable English any changes in the policy or any changes in benefits, including a reduction in benefits or changes to waivers, exclusions, or conditions, and highlight this information by printing it in italics. The notice shall specify in a minimum of 10-point bold typeface, the reason for a premium rate change or a change in coverage or benefits.

(2) *The written notice required pursuant to subdivision (b) shall also describe the individual policyholder's right to change benefit plan designs and to switch to a health care service plan or a*



1 *different health insurer, as set forth in Section 10960.3. This*  
2 *paragraph shall become operative on July 1, 2011.*

3 (d) If an insurer rejects an applicant or the dependents of an  
4 applicant for coverage or offers individual coverage at a rate that  
5 is higher than the standard rate, the insurer shall inform the  
6 applicant about the state's high-risk health insurance pool, the  
7 California Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP) (Part  
8 6.5 (commencing with Section 12700)), and the federal temporary  
9 high risk pool established pursuant to Part 6.6 (commencing with  
10 Section 12739.5). The information provided to the applicant by  
11 the insurer shall be in accordance with standards developed by the  
12 department, in consultation with the Managed Risk Medical  
13 Insurance Board, and shall specifically include the toll-free  
14 telephone number and Internet Web site address for MRMIP and  
15 the federal temporary high risk pool. The requirement to notify  
16 applicants of the availability of MRMIP and the federal temporary  
17 high risk pool shall not apply when a health plan rejects an  
18 applicant for Medicare supplement coverage.

19 SEC. 8. Section 10603 of the Insurance Code is amended to  
20 read:

21 10603. (a) On or before April 1, 1975, the commissioner shall  
22 promulgate a standard supplemental disclosure form for all  
23 disability insurance policies. Upon the appropriate disclosure form  
24 as prescribed by the commissioner, each insurer shall provide, in  
25 easily understood language and in a uniform, clearly organized  
26 manner, as prescribed and required by the commissioner, such  
27 summary information about each disability insurance policy offered  
28 by the insurer as the commissioner finds is necessary to provide  
29 for full and fair disclosure of the provisions of the policy.

30 (b) Nothing in this section shall preclude the disclosure form  
31 from being included with the evidence of coverage or certificate  
32 of coverage or policy.

33 (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), with respect to health  
34 insurance policies, the disclosure form shall also be made available  
35 on the insurer's Internet Web site. This subdivision shall become  
36 operative on July 1, 2011.

37 SEC. 9. Section 10604 of the Insurance Code is amended to  
38 read:

1 10604. The disclosure form described in Section 10603 shall  
2 include the following information, in concise and specific terms,  
3 relative to the disability insurance policy:

4 (a) The applicable category or categories of coverage provided  
5 by the policy, from among the following:

- 6 (1) Basic hospital expense coverage.
- 7 (2) Basic medical-surgical expense coverage.
- 8 (3) Hospital confinement indemnity coverage.
- 9 (4) Major medical expense coverage.
- 10 (5) Disability income protection coverage.
- 11 (6) Accident only coverage.
- 12 (7) Specified disease or specified accident coverage.

13 (8) Such other categories as the commissioner may prescribe.

14 (b) The principal benefits and coverage of the disability  
15 insurance policy.

16 (c) The exceptions, reductions, and limitations that apply to  
17 such policy.

18 (d) A summary, including a citation of the relevant contractual  
19 provisions, of the process used to authorize or deny payments for  
20 services under the coverage provided by the policy including  
21 coverage for subacute care, transitional inpatient care, or care  
22 provided in skilled nursing facilities. This subdivision shall only  
23 apply to policies of disability insurance that cover hospital,  
24 medical, or surgical expenses.

25 (e) The full premium cost of such policy.

26 (f) Any copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirements  
27 that may be incurred by the insured or his or her family in obtaining  
28 coverage under the policy.

29 (g) The terms under which the policy may be renewed by the  
30 insured, including any reservation by the insurer of any right to  
31 change premiums.

32 (h) A statement that the disclosure form is a summary only, and  
33 that the policy itself should be consulted to determine governing  
34 contractual provisions.

35 (i) For individual health insurance policies and health benefit  
36 plans, as defined in Section 10700, identification of the location  
37 of the health plan benefits and coverage matrix required by Section  
38 10604.2, including the location of this information on the insurer's  
39 Internet Web site.

1 (j) (1) For individual health insurance policies, both of the  
2 following:

3 (A) Provisions relating to an individual's right to apply for any  
4 benefit plan design written, issued, or administered by the health  
5 insurer at the time of application for a new health insurance policy,  
6 or at the time of renewal of a health insurance policy.

7 (B) Information concerning the availability of a listing of all  
8 the health insurer's policies and benefit plan designs offered to  
9 individuals, including the rates for each policy.

10 (2) This subdivision shall become operative on July 1, 2011.

11 SEC. 10. Section 10604.2 is added to the Insurance Code, to  
12 read:

13 10604.2. (a) The commissioner shall require each health  
14 insurer offering a policy of health insurance to an individual or  
15 small employer, as defined in Section 10700, to provide with the  
16 disclosure form described in Section 10603 for individual policies  
17 and health benefit plans, as defined in Section 10700, a uniform  
18 health plan benefits and coverage matrix containing the policy's  
19 major provisions in order to facilitate comparisons between  
20 policies. The uniform matrix shall be available on the insurer's  
21 Internet Web site, and shall include the following category  
22 descriptions together with the corresponding copayments and  
23 limitations in the following sequence:

24 (1) Deductibles.

25 (2) Lifetime maximums.

26 (3) Professional services.

27 (4) Outpatient services.

28 (5) Hospitalization services.

29 (6) Emergency health coverage.

30 (7) Ambulance services.

31 (8) Prescription drug coverage.

32 (9) Durable medical equipment.

33 (10) Mental health services.

34 (11) Chemical dependency services.

35 (12) Home health services.

36 (13) Other.

37 (b) The following statement shall be placed at the top of the  
38 matrix in all capital letters in at least 10-point boldface type:

39 THIS MATRIX IS INTENDED TO BE USED TO HELP  
40 YOU COMPARE COVERAGE BENEFITS AND IS A

1 SUMMARY ONLY. THE EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE  
2 AND POLICY SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR A  
3 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGE BENEFITS  
4 AND LIMITATIONS.

5 (c) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2011.

6 SEC. 11. Chapter 9.6 (commencing with Section 10960) is  
7 added to Part 2 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, to read:

8  
9 CHAPTER 9.6. CALIFORNIA INDIVIDUAL MARKET  
10 SIMPLIFICATION  
11

12 10960. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to require health  
13 care service plans and health insurers issuing coverage in the  
14 individual market to compete on the basis of price, quality, and  
15 service, and not on risk selection.

16 (b) The purpose of this chapter is to provide for individual  
17 coverage with standardized benefit plan designs, and to facilitate  
18 comparison shopping and price competition.

19 10960.1. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions  
20 shall apply:

21 (a) “Benefit plan design” means a specific individual health  
22 care coverage product issued by a health insurer.

23 (b) “Commission” means the Individual Insurance Market  
24 Reform Commission established pursuant to Section 1366.14 of  
25 the Health and Safety Code.

26 (c) “Coverage choice category” refers to the levels of coverage  
27 identified in subdivision (c) of Section 10960.2.

28 10960.2. (a) An insurer offering individual health insurance  
29 policies shall fairly and affirmatively market all of the standard  
30 benefit plan designs provided for in this section and any additional  
31 standard benefit plan designs authorized through regulations  
32 adopted pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1366.14 of the  
33 Health and Safety Code to all individual purchasers in each service  
34 area in which the insurer makes coverage available or provides  
35 benefits.

36 (b) Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 10960.3,  
37 no benefit plan designs other than the standard benefit plan designs  
38 described in this chapter shall be offered for sale to individuals in  
39 this state.

1     (c) Standard benefit plan designs shall be offered in platinum,  
2     gold, silver, bronze, and catastrophic coverage choice categories  
3     and shall meet the requirements described in the following table,  
4     except as modified by regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision  
5     (c) of Section 1366.14 of the Health and Safety Code:

- 1 PRINTER PLEASE NOTE: TIP-IN MATERIAL TO BE
- 2 INSERTED

1     *PRINTER PLEASE NOTE: TIP-IN MATERIAL TO BE*  
2     *INSERTED*

(d) For families enrolled in the same policy, the deductible and maximum out-of-pocket thresholds shall be twice the individual thresholds. In calculating these thresholds for the catastrophic benefit plan design, an insurer shall follow the requirements for health savings accounts under Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(e) A health insurer shall market one standard benefit plan design in each coverage choice category. A health insurer shall not be required to offer a health maintenance organization benefit plan design.

(f) A plan design in the catastrophic coverage choice category shall have cost-sharing and an out-of-pocket maximum that enables it to be offered with a health savings account that has preferred federal income tax status under Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(g) For the plan designs offered in the catastrophic coverage choice category, all services, except preventive health services identified in Section 2713 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-13), shall be subject to the deductible. For all other standard benefit plan designs, all services, except office visits and preventive health services identified in Section 2713 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-13), shall be subject to the deductible.

(h) Compliance with the requirements of this chapter and Article 4.1 (commencing with Section 1366.10) of Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, and any regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1366.14 of the Health and Safety Code, shall be enforced consistently between health insurers and health care service plans regardless of licensure.

(i) Nothing in this section shall require guarantee issue of coverage.

10960.3. (a) (1) On and after July 1, 2011, health insurers participating in the individual market shall discontinue offering and selling health benefit plan designs other than those that meet the requirements of the standard health benefit plan designs described in this chapter. ~~However,~~

(2) *Notwithstanding paragraph (1), health insurers shall renew health benefit plan designs issued to individuals and their dependents prior to July 1, 2011, until January 1, 2014. dependents prior to July 1, 2011. An insurer that renews this grandfathered*



1 *health benefit plan design on or after January 1, 2014, shall*  
 2 *provide the following notice to insureds of the policy at least 30*  
 3 *days prior to the policy renewal date:*

4 *Your current coverage is a grandfathered product. Effective*  
 5 *January 1, 2014, you may be able to obtain health care coverage*  
 6 *that provides better benefits with lower premiums and lower cost*  
 7 *sharing from this insurer, another insurer, a health care service*  
 8 *plan, or the Health Benefits Exchange established in California.*  
 9 *Please go to [www.health.gov](http://www.health.gov) or [www.healthhotline.gov](http://www.healthhotline.gov) for more*  
 10 *information.*

11 (b) (1) Notwithstanding Section 10119.1, an individual enrolled  
 12 in a benefit plan design may change to a different benefit plan  
 13 design issued by the same insurer or to a benefit plan design issued  
 14 by a health care service plan or a different health insurer on a  
 15 guarantee issue basis only as set forth in this subdivision. For  
 16 individuals enrolled as a family, only the policyholder may change  
 17 plan designs or switch to a health care service plan or a different  
 18 health insurer for himself or herself and for his or her enrolled  
 19 spouse, registered domestic partner, and dependents.

20 (2) On the annual renewal date of an individual health insurance  
 21 policy, an individual shall have the right to select, on a guarantee  
 22 issue basis, a different benefit plan design issued by the same  
 23 insurer, or a benefit plan design issued by a health care service  
 24 plan or a different health insurer, provided that the new plan design  
 25 is within the same or a lower coverage choice category. A  
 26 policyholder enrolled in a benefit plan design issued prior to July  
 27 1, 2011, may switch to a standard benefit plan design pursuant to  
 28 this paragraph that is of equal or lesser actuarial value.

29 (3) Notice of the right to change benefit plan designs and to  
 30 switch to a health care service plan or a different health insurer  
 31 established by paragraph (2) shall be included in the insurer's  
 32 evidence of coverage and in the notice required pursuant to  
 33 subdivision (c) of Section 10113.9.

34 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a policyholder or  
 35 insured from changing benefit plan designs, health care service  
 36 plans, or health insurers at any time if the individual passes medical  
 37 underwriting, or as required by federal law.

38 10960.4. (a) (1) The commission shall develop a standardized  
 39 enrollment questionnaire to be used by all health care service plans  
 40 and health insurers that offer and sell individual coverage. The

1 questionnaire shall be written in clear and easy to understand  
2 language. The questionnaire, which shall be completed by a  
3 prospective policyholder applying for individual coverage from  
4 an insurer, shall provide for an objective evaluation of the potential  
5 policyholder's health status, and that of his or her dependents  
6 applying for coverage, by assigning a discrete measure, such as a  
7 system of point scoring, to each potential policyholder.

8 (2) No later than six months following the date the commission  
9 develops the standardized enrollment questionnaire, all health  
10 insurers shall do both of the following:

11 (A) Exclusively use that questionnaire and not use other  
12 questionnaires or forms in order to conduct underwriting, except  
13 as provided in paragraph (3).

14 (B) Utilize the objective evaluation developed by the  
15 commission under paragraph (1) in determining whether to provide  
16 coverage.

17 (3) On and after January 1, 2014, a health insurer shall not  
18 require, request, or obtain health information as part of the  
19 application process for an applicant who is eligible for guaranteed  
20 issuance of coverage. The application form shall include a clear  
21 and conspicuous statement that the applicant is not required to  
22 provide health information.

23 (b) The commission shall establish a methodology for the  
24 graduation of accepted risk into three risk categories based on  
25 responses to the questionnaire: "higher risk," "standard risk," and  
26 "preferred risk."

27 (c) On and after January 1, 2011, rates between the highest risk  
28 category and the lowest risk category shall not vary by more than  
29 a ratio of 2 to 1 within each standard benefit plan design offered  
30 by a health insurer within each coverage choice category.

31 10960.5. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a health  
32 insurer shall rate its entire portfolio of health benefit plan designs  
33 in the individual market utilizing the methodology established  
34 under subdivision (b) of Section 10960.4.

35 (b) The annualized premium rate increase for a health insurance  
36 policy issued by a health insurer to an individual shall not vary by  
37 more than 10 percent above or below the weighted average  
38 premium rate increase when calculated across all of the health  
39 insurer's health benefit plan designs. This limitation shall exclude  
40 any change in the annual premium rate due to a change in the

individual's age. In addition, the highest standard premium rate for a standard benefit plan design offered in the individual market by a health insurer (at any age, geographic area, family size, contract type, network, and effective date) shall not exceed the lowest standard premium rate for a standard benefit plan design offered in the individual market by the health insurer (at the same age, geographic area, family size, contract type, network, and effective date) by more than 50 percent, after taking into consideration the actuarial difference of the standard benefit plan designs offered.

(c) In rating individuals, only the following characteristics of an individual shall be used: age, geographic region, and family composition, plus the health benefit plan design selected by the individual, except that health status may also be used until January 1, 2014. In using age as a rating factor, benefit plan designs in the individual market shall use single-year age categories for individuals above 18 years of age and under 65 years of age. In using geographic region as a rating factor, a health insurer shall use the same geographic rating requirements required under paragraph (3) of subdivision (v) of Section 10700. Health insurers shall base rates for individuals using no more than the following family size categories:

- (1) Single.
- (2) More than one child 18 years of age or under and no adults.
- (3) Married couple or registered domestic partners.
- (4) One adult and child.
- (5) One adult and children.
- (6) Married couple and child or children, or registered domestic partners and child or children.

10962. This chapter shall not apply to individual health insurance policies for coverage of Medicare services pursuant to contracts with the United States Government, Medi-Cal contracts with the State Department of Health Care Services, Healthy Families Program contracts with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, contracts with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board under the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program, Medicare supplement policies, long-term care policies, or specialized health insurance policies.

10963. This article shall become operative on July 1, 2011.

1 SEC. 12. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
2 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
3 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
4 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
5 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
6 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
7 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
8 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
9 Constitution.

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